

Subactivity: NOAA Education Program
Line Item: NOAA Education Program

GOAL STATEMENT:

To provide executive direction for the implementation of agency policies to all NOAA and DOC programs and missions. Programs in this sub-activity support the Mission Support goal in NOAA's Strategic Plan. This line item also contains various NOAA educational programs including the Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions, the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship and the Nancy Foster Scholarship Programs.

BASE DESCRIPTION:

The Office of Education and Sustainable Development's (OEd) activities are dedicated to achieving success on NOAA's strategic cross-cutting priorities of promoting environmental literacy and developing, valuing, and sustaining a World-class workforce. OEd consults within NOAA to improve coordination across Line, Program and Staff Offices, while promoting NOAA services and products, and their benefits to the public. OEd also implements targeted education programs on behalf of the Agency. Such activities include administration of the Ernest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship Program, the JASON program and development of Education Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institution (EPP/MSI). These programs are specifically focused on increasing education and training opportunities for individuals pursuing NOAA-related fields of study with the goal of encouraging students to pursue applied research and education in atmospheric and oceanic sciences, and science education. The EPP program funding directly supports the development of NOAA-related research capability in MSIs. The JASON Foundation for Education and the Institute for Exploration/Immersion Institute works toward the development of 4th through 9th grade multi-disciplinary, oceans related products in support of the NOAA Education Plan and priorities identified by the NOAA Education Council.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION:

Propose that Section 214(f) of Division B, Public Law 108-447 be amended to delete the funding provision (one-tenth of one percent of NOAA appropriations) and to provide further that up to \$4,000,000 be authorized to be appropriated annually. Propose that Section 210 of Public Law 106-553 be repealed, and that Section 318 of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1445c) be amended to delete the funding provision (one percent of the Marine Sanctuaries appropriation) and to provide further that up to \$500,000 be authorized to be appropriated annually.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(Dollars in thousands)

Subactivity: NOAA Education Program	FY 2005 ACTUALS	FY 2006 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2007 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Line Item: NOAA Education Program					
NOAA Education Program / Education Initiative	10,409	6,283	-	-	-
Hollings Scholarship	-	3,962	-	3,700	3,700
Nancy Foster Scholarship	-	-	-	400	400
Educational Partnership Program/Minority Serving Institutions (EPPMSI)	-	14,201	14,212	14,212	-
Ocean Science Bowl	986	-	-	-	-
JASON Education and Outreach	2,463	2,466	1,000	1,000	-
Bay Watersheds Education & Training Program	2,463	-	-	-	-
BWET Hawaii	1,479	1,480	-	-	-
BWET California	-	1,972	-	-	-
BWET Chesapeake Bay	-	3,452	-	-	-
Hawaii Humpback Education Program	-	1,726	-	-	-
Gulf Coast Exploreum	-	986	-	-	-
Chesapeake Bay Interpretive Buoys	-	493	-	-	-
Narragansett Bay Marine Education (Save the Bay)	492	493	-	-	-
TOTAL	18,292	37,514	15,212	19,312	4,100
FTE	12	-	-	-	-

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2007:

Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship Program (0 FTE and \$3,700,000): NOAA requests an increase of 0 FTE and \$3,700,000 to provide scholarships and program administration for the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship program.

Background

Since NOAA was established as a science Agency in 1970, its scope of responsibility has included education through the mandates of individual NOAA programs (e.g., National Estuarine Reserves System, National Marine Sanctuary Program, and National Sea Grant College Program). The Hollings Scholarship was created in 2005. The purposes of the program include: (1) to increase undergraduate training in oceanic and atmospheric science, research, technology, and education and foster multidisciplinary training opportunities; (2) to increase public understanding and support for stewardship of the ocean and atmosphere and improve environmental literacy; (3) to recruit and prepare students for public service careers with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and other natural resource and science agencies at the Federal, state and local levels of government; and (4) to recruit and prepare students for careers as teachers and educators in oceanic and atmospheric science and to improve scientific and environmental education in the United States.

Statement of Need

For FY07, OEd requests \$3,700,000 and no new FTE. These funds will allow OEd to anticipate and plan for the level of program support for scholarships and program administration under the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship program. Currently this program is administered through a tax which is distributed across all NOAA programs. The task of administering this tax is both time consuming, administrative difficult and can lead to funding shortfalls in other programs.

Proposed Actions

Provide scholarships and program administration under the Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship program. The President's Budget requests continuing support for this program, but requests that funds be appropriated in a dedicated funding line.

Benefits

110 scholars received Ernest F. Hollings Scholarship awards in FY 2005.

Scholars represented 37 states and Puerto Rico through their location of residence:

AK(1), AL(4), AZ(1), CA(6), CT(3), DE(1), FL(7), GA(3), HI(3), ID(1), IL(3), IN(2), KY(1), LA(2), MA(2), MD(6), ME(2), MI(1), MN(2), MO(4), MS(1), NC(6), NE(1), NJ(1), NV(1), NY(6), OH(2), OR(3), PA(7), RI(1), SC(4), TN(2), TX(3), UT(1), VA(3), WA(7), WI(4), and PR(1)

3 additional states were represented by the location of the scholars' institutions (current and anticipated institution of enrollment during award initiation):

NH, OK, and VT

- Maximum award benefits total \$28,425:
- 2 years of academic support (up to \$8,000 per 9-month academic year)
- Stipend during a 10-week, full-time summer internship (\$650 per week)
- Housing subsidy for scholars who do not reside at home during the summer internship
- Travel expenses for attendance and participation at a Hollings scholarship program conference

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This program change supports the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of “Observe, protect, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental needs.” This increase also supports implementation of the US Ocean Action Plan and the NOAA Education Plan and directly supports all NOAA Goals and the following performance measures:

Performance Goal: All	FY 2007 without Increase	FY 2007 with Increase
Percentage of program participants that graduate with a degree in NOAA-related fields	Inability to provide smooth administration of scholarships and program	Ensure program support for scholarships and program administration
Percentage of program participants that pursue graduate education in NOAA-related fields	Inability to coordinate NOAA’s higher education activities to strengthen future workforce	Promote development of highly trained workforce

Nancy Foster Scholarship Program (0 FTE and \$400,000): NOAA requests an increase of 0 FTE and \$400,000 to provide scholarships and program administration for the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship program.

Background

As authorized under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (16 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.), 1 percent of the total appropriation for the National Marine Sanctuary Program are dedicated annually to fund the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship program.

Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarships provide support of up to \$32,000: a 12-month stipend of \$20,000, in addition to an annual cost-of-education allowance of up to \$12,000. A maximum of \$64,000 may be provided to masters students (up to two years of support) and up to \$128,000 may be provided to doctoral students (up to four years of support).

Statement of Need

For FY07, OEd requests \$400,000 and no new FTE. These funds will allow OEd to anticipate and plan for the level of program support for scholarships and program

Proposed Actions

Provide scholarships and program administration under the Dr. Nancy Foster Scholarship program. Establish a line item for dedicated to this program and decoupling the funding available from annual fluctuation of NOAA appropriations. It will also provides dedicated funds for this programs that does not impact the level of funding allocated to other NOAA line items.

Benefits

Promote development of a highly trained, technologically capable workforce.

Performance Goals and Measurement Data

This program change supports the Department of Commerce Strategic Goal of “Observe, protected, and manage the Earth’s resources to promote environmental needs.” This increase also supports implementation of the US Ocean Action Plan and the NOAA Education Plan and directly supports all NOAA Goals and the following performance measures:

Performance Goal: All	FY 2007 without Increase	FY 2007 with Increase
Percentage of program participants that graduate with a degree in NOAA-related fields	Unable to provide scholarships and program administration	Ensure program support for scholarships and program administration
Percentage of program participates that pursue graduate education in NOAA-related fields	Inability to coordinate NOAA’s higher education activities to strengthen future workforce	Promote development of highly trained workforce